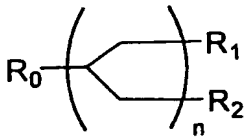
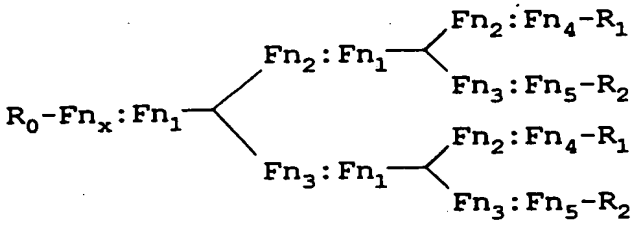
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure having general formula (I):

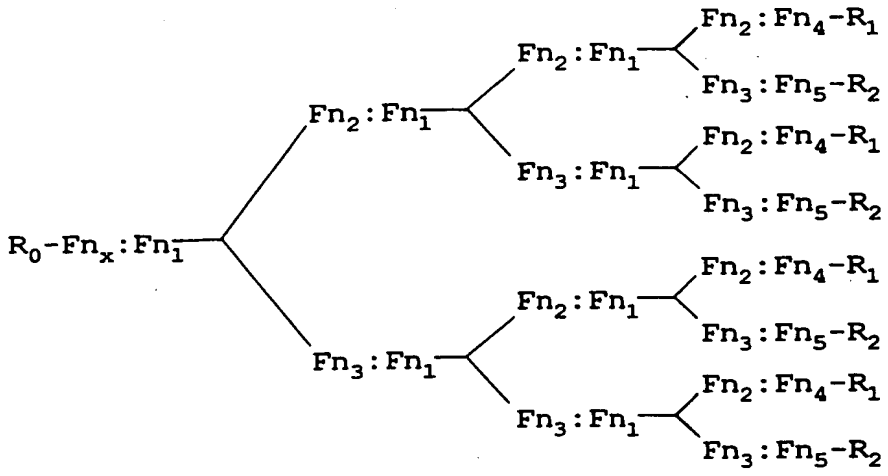


(I)

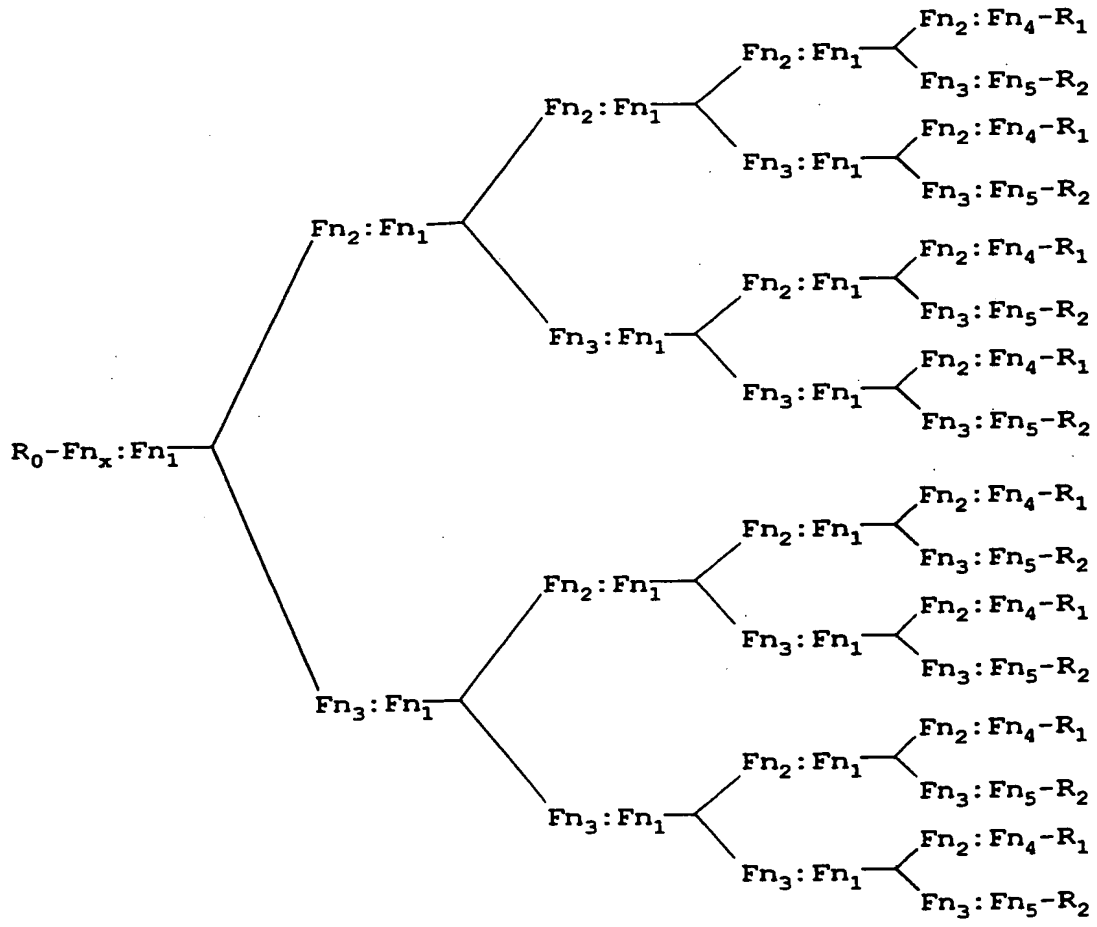
which is selected from the group consisting of an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (G), an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (H), and an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (J):



(G)


$R_0-Fn_x:Fn_1$
$Fn_2:Fn_1$
$Fn_3:Fn_1$
$Fn_2:Fn_1$
$Fn_3:Fn_1$
$Fn_2:Fn_1$
$Fn_3:Fn_1$
$Fn_2:Fn_4-R_1$
$Fn_3:Fn_5-R_2$
$Fn_2:Fn_4-R_1$
$Fn_3:Fn_5-R_2$
$Fn_2:Fn_4-R_1$
$Fn_3:Fn_5-R_2$
$Fn_2:Fn_4-R_1$
$Fn_3:Fn_5-R_2$

(H)


$R_0-Fn_x:Fn_1$
$Fn_2:Fn_1$
$Fn_3:Fn_1$
$Fn_2:Fn_1$
$Fn_3:Fn_1$
$Fn_2:Fn_1$
$Fn_3:Fn_1$
$Fn_2:Fn_1$
$Fn_3:Fn_1$
$Fn_2:Fn_4-R_1$
$Fn_3:Fn_5-R_2$
$Fn_2:Fn_4-R_1$
$Fn_3:Fn_5-R_2$
$Fn_2:Fn_4-R_1$
$Fn_3:Fn_5-R_2$
$Fn_2:Fn_4-R_1$
$Fn_3:Fn_5-R_2$
$Fn_2:Fn_4-R_1$
$Fn_3:Fn_5-R_2$
$Fn_2:Fn_4-R_1$
$Fn_3:Fn_5-R_2$
$Fn_2:Fn_4-R_1$
$Fn_3:Fn_5-R_2$

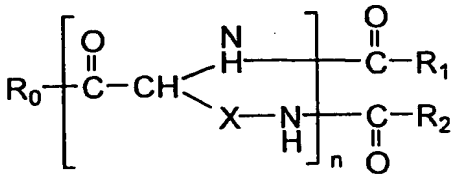
(J)

where Fn_x, Fn_1, Fn_2, Fn_3, Fn_4 and Fn_5 respectively represents a functional reactive group, each of which is bonded to a neighboring functional reactive group; R_0 is a ~~hydrophilic group~~ poly- or oligo-oxyethylene derivative, or a poly- or oligo-saccharide derivative; R_1 and R_2 are independently a hydrophobic group; and n is an integer of 2 to 4.

Claim 2 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 1, wherein said functional reactive group is bonded through amide bond or ester bond.

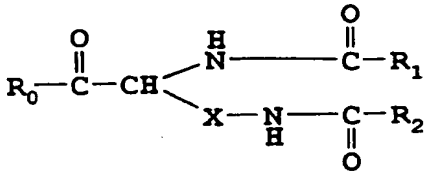
Claims 3-4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): An amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure having general formula (II):

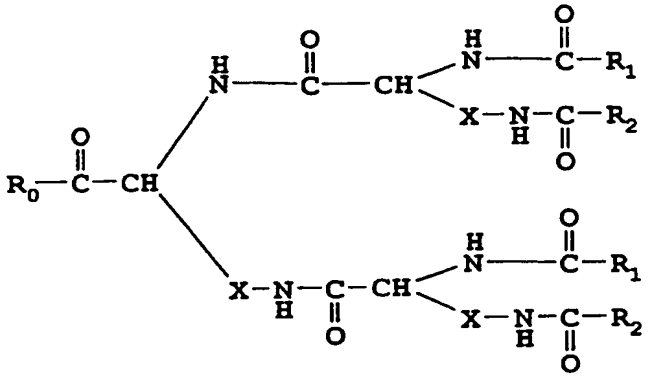


(II)

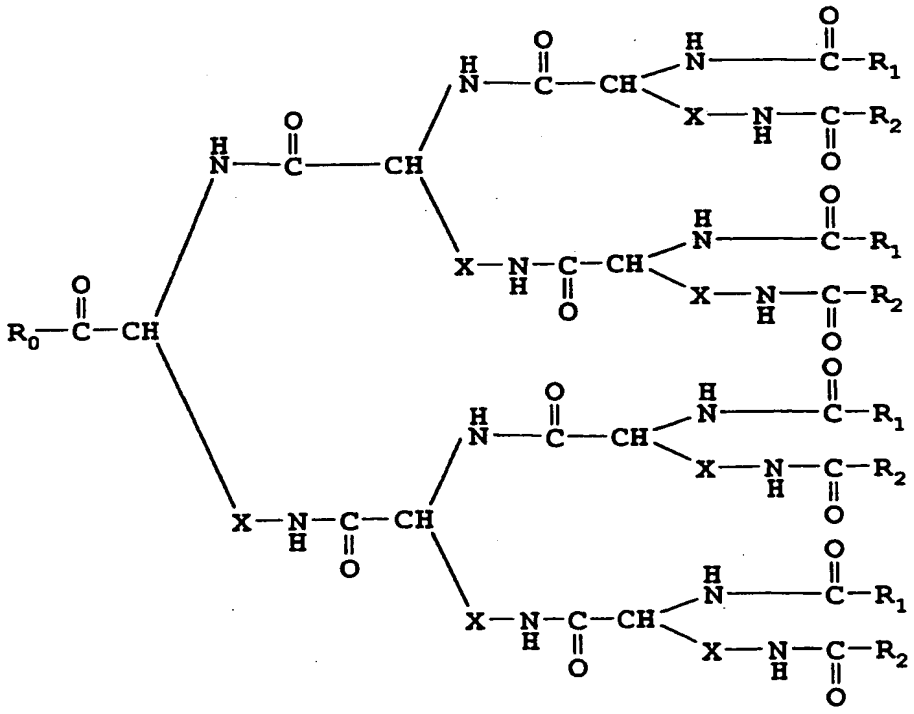
which is selected from the group consisting of an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (II-1), an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (II-2), an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (II-3), and an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (II-4):



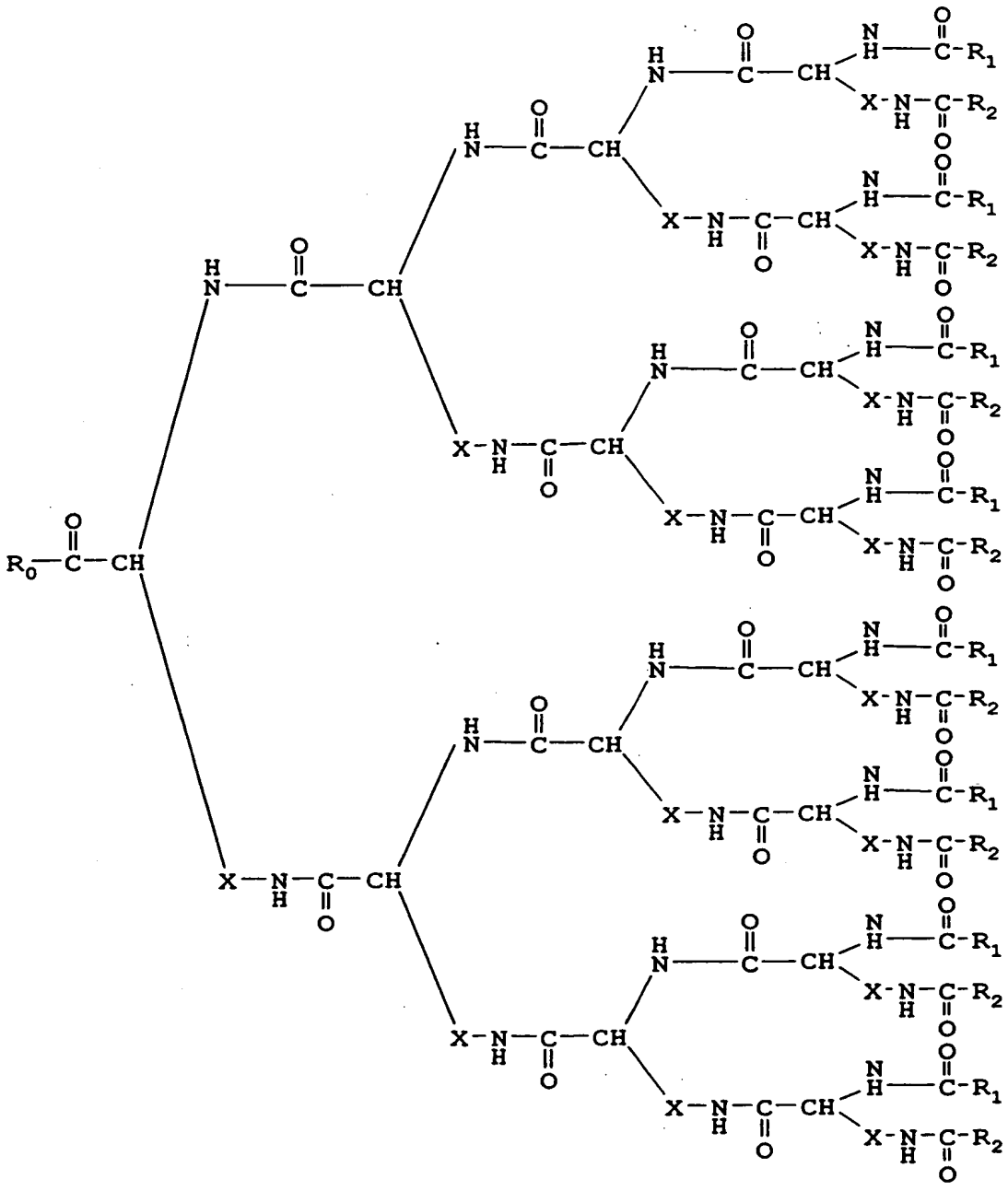
(II-1)



(II-2)



(II-3)



(II-4)

where R_0 is a hydrophilic group; X is $-(CH_2)_4-$ or $-(CH_2)_p-CO-$ (wherein p is 1 or 2); each of R_1 and R_2 ~~are~~ is independently ~~a hydrophobic~~ an alkyl group; and n is an integer of 1 to 4.

Claim 6 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 5, wherein said compound is represented by said formula (11-2), said formula (11-3) or said formula (11-4).

Claim 7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The amphiphilic compound according to ~~claim 7~~ claim 5, wherein said alkyl group contains 1 to 30 carbon atoms.

Claims 9-10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 5, wherein said R_0 is poly- or oligo-oxyethylene derivative, poly- or oligo-saccharide derivative, or poly- or oligo-peptide.

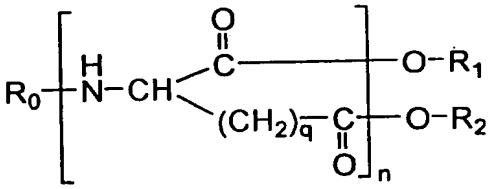
Claim 12 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 6, wherein said R_0 is poly- or oligo-oxyethylene derivative, poly- or oligo-saccharide derivative, or poly- or oligo-peptide.

Claim 13 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 5, wherein said R_0 is represented by a formula:
$R\text{-}(OCH_2CH_2)_mCH_2NH\text{-}$ or $R\text{-}(OCH_2CH_2)_mOCH_2C(O)NHCH_2CH_2NH\text{-}$ where R is H-, CH_3-, $CH_3C(O)$-, $HOOCCH_2$-, $H_2NCH_2CH_2NHC(O)CH_2$-, or poly- or oligo-peptides; and m is an integer of 1 to 3000.

Claim 14 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 6, wherein said R_0 is represented by a formula:

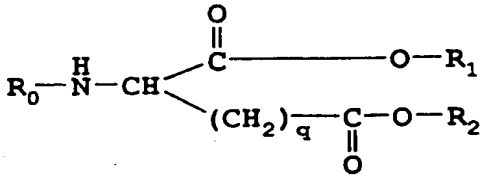
$R\text{-}(OCH_2CH_2)_mCH_2NH\text{-}$ or $R\text{-}(OCH_2CH_2)_mOCH_2C(O)NHCH_2CH_2NH\text{-}$ where R is H-, CH_3-, $CH_3C(O)$-, $HOOCCH_2$-, $H_2NCH_2CH_2NHC(O)CH_2$- or poly- or oligo-peptides; and m is an integer of 1 to 3000.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): An amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure having following general formula (III):

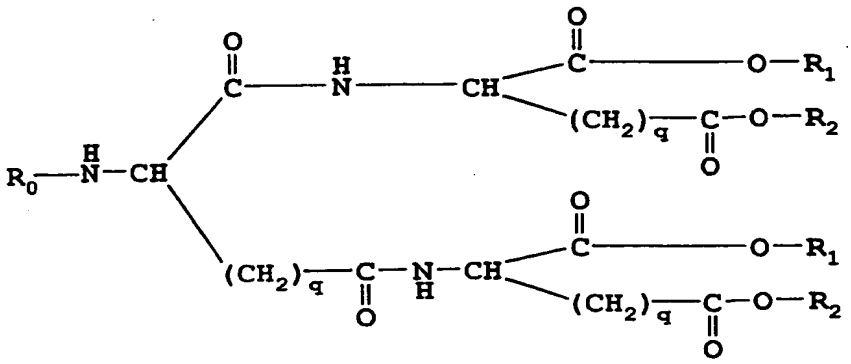


(III)

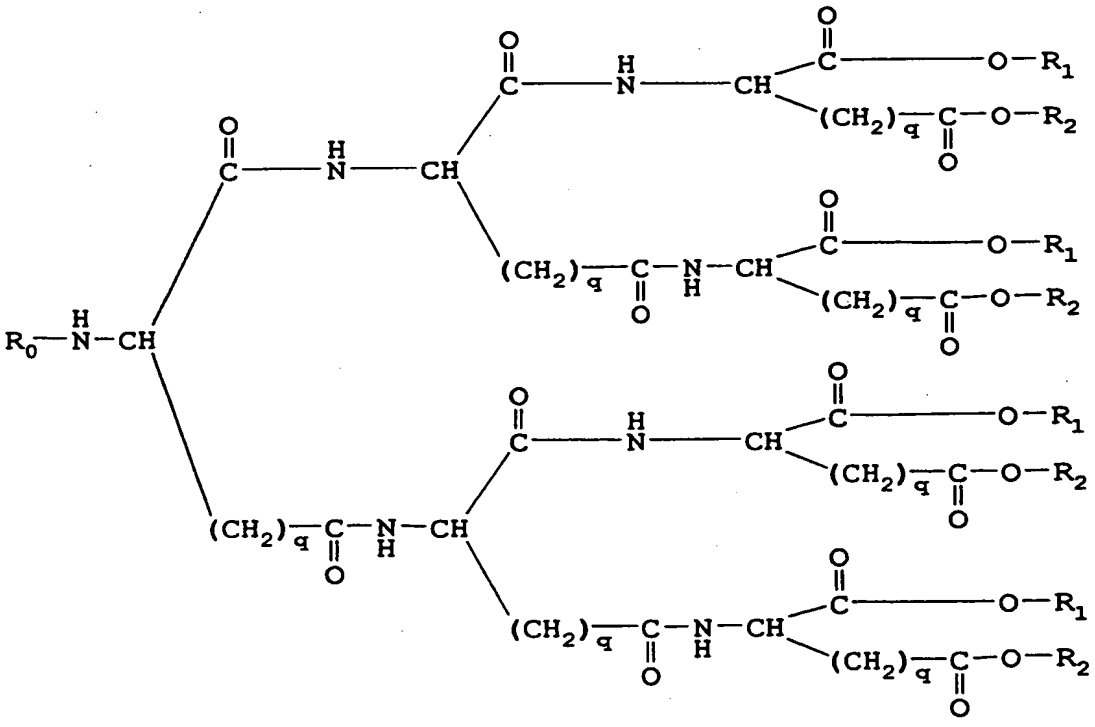
which is selected from the group consisting of an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (III-1), an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (III-2), an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (III-3), and an amphiphilic compound having a dendritic branch structure represented by the following formula (III-4):



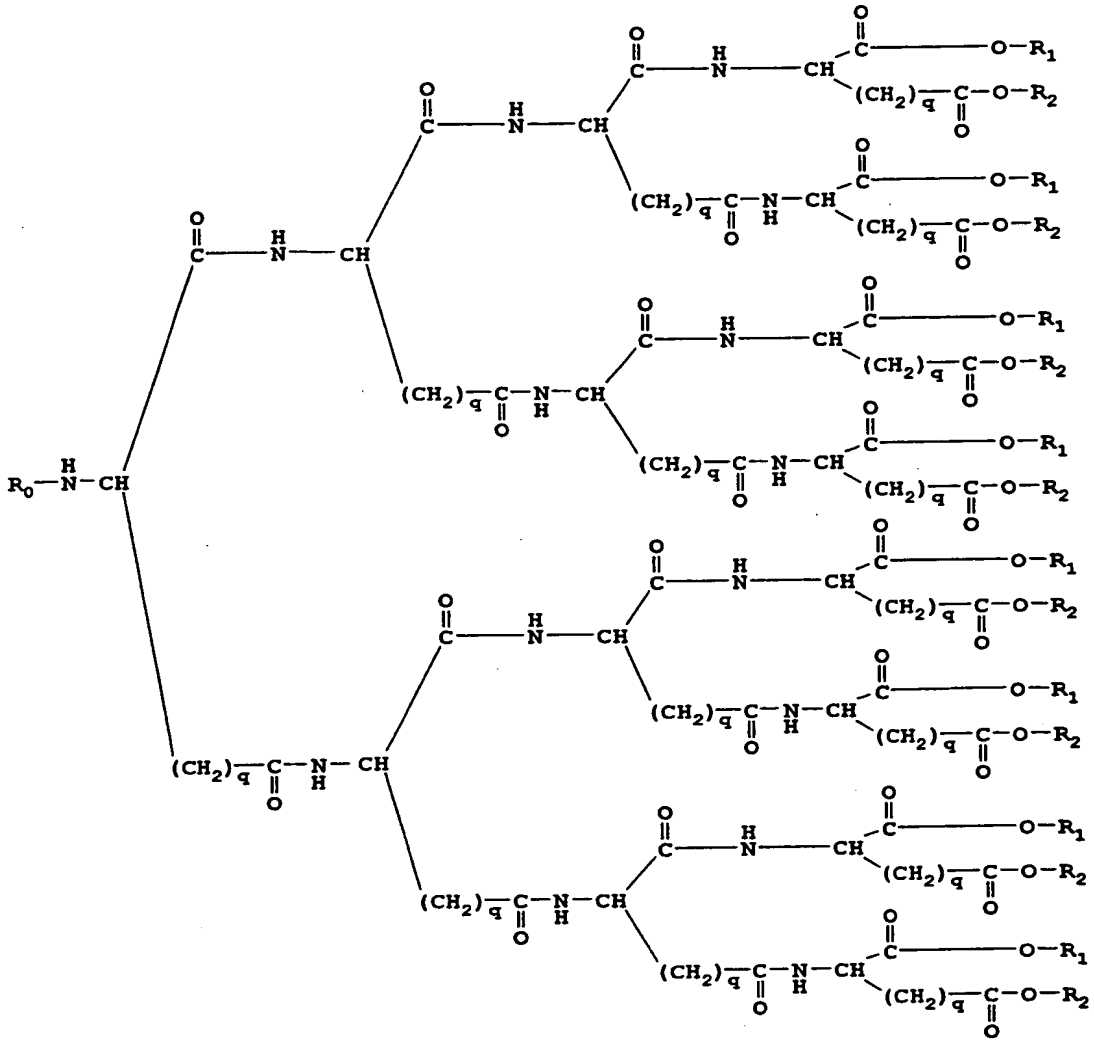
(III-1)



(III-2)



(III-3)



(III-4)

where R_0 is a hydrophilic group; <u>each of</u> R_1 and R_2 ~~are~~ <u>is</u> independently ~~a hydrophobic~~ <u>an alkyl</u> group; n is an integer of 1 to 4 and q is 1 or 2.

Claim 16 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 15, wherein said compound is represented by said formula (III-2), said formula (III-3) or said formula (III-4).

Claim 17 (Canceled)

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The amphiphilic compound according to ~~claim 17~~ claim 15, wherein said alkyl group contains 1 to 30 carbon atoms.

Claims 19-20 (Canceled)

Claim 21 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 15, wherein said R_0 is poly- or oligo-oxyethylene derivative, poly- or oligo-saccharide derivative, or poly- or oligo-peptide.

Claim 22 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 16, wherein said R_0 is poly- or oligo-oxyethylene derivative, poly- or oligo-saccharide derivative, or poly- or oligo-peptide.

Claim 23 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 15, wherein said R_0 is represented by a formula:
$R\text{-}(OCH_2CH_2)_mCH_2NH\text{-}$ or $R\text{-}(OCH_2CH_2)_mOCH_2C(O)NHCH_2CH_2NH\text{-}$ (wherein R is H-, CH_3-, $CH_3C(O)$-, $HOOCCH_2$-, $H_2NCH_2CH_2NHC(O)CH_2$- or poly- or oligo-peptides; and m is an integer of 1 to 3000.

Claim 24 (Original): The amphiphilic compound according to claim 16, wherein said R_0 is represented by a formula:

$R\text{-}(OCH_2CH_2)_mCH_2NH\text{-}$ or $R\text{-}(OCH_2CH_2)_mOCH_2C(O)NHCH_2CH_2NH\text{-}$ wherein R is H-, CH_3-, $CH_3C(O)$-, $HOOCCH_2$-, $H_2NCH_2CH_2NHC(O)CH_2$- or poly- or oligo-peptides; and m is an integer of 1 to 3000.